

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A vacuum pressure regulating valve comprising:
a first main port and a second main port respectively connected to one of a vacuum pump and a vacuum chamber and the other;
an annular valve seat formed in a connecting path connecting both ~~the~~ of said main ports;
a circular flow path wall coaxially surrounding the valve seat and having a diameter greater than a seat diameter of the valve seat;
a disc-shaped valve member which has a front face mounted with a first sealing member for opening and closing the valve seat and a circular outer peripheral wall having a diameter smaller than that of the flow path wall and greater than the seat diameter and which is fitted in the flow path wall to thereby form a restricted flow path between the flow path wall and the outer peripheral wall; and
a driving portion for causing the valve member to carry out opening and closing operations wherein a height of the flow path wall and a height of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member approximate each other.

Claim 2 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 1, wherein the valve member does not have a projecting portion or member which is fitted in the valve seat to affect change in a flow path area on the front face of the valve member.

Claim 3 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall is tapered.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of notches for regulating the flow path area of the restricted flow path are provided ~~to~~in one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of notches for regulating the flow path area of the restricted flow path are provided ~~to~~on one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of notches for regulating the flow path area of the restricted flow path are provided ~~to~~on one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall.

Claim 8 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 5, wherein one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall not provided with the notches is provided with a second sealing member for coming in contact with the other wall provided with the notches to thereby control the flow path area of the restricted flow path together with the notches.

Claim 9 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 6, wherein one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall not provided with the

notches is provided with a second sealing member for coming in contact with the other wall provided with the notches to thereby control the flow path area of the restricted flow path together with the notches.

Claim 10 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 7, wherein one of the outer peripheral wall of the valve member and the flow path wall not provided with the notches is provided with a second sealing member for coming in contact with the other wall provided with the notches to thereby control the flow path area of the restricted flow path together with the notches.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 5, wherein the notches ~~are~~ comprise grooves provided ~~to~~ on the flow path wall or the outer peripheral wall in a height direction of the wall.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 6, wherein the notches are grooves provided ~~to~~ on the flow path wall or the outer peripheral wall in a height direction of the wall.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 7, wherein the notches are grooves provided ~~to~~ on the flow path wall or the outer peripheral wall in a height direction of the wall.

Claim 14 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 5, wherein the flow path wall is formed of a cylindrical member provided around the valve seat and the notches are formed of holes formed in the cylindrical member.

Claim 15 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 6, wherein the flow path wall is formed of a cylindrical member provided around the valve seat and the notches are formed of holes formed in the cylindrical member.

Claim 16 (Original): A pressure regulating valve according to claim 7, wherein the flow path wall is formed of a cylindrical member provided around the valve seat and the notches are formed of holes formed in the cylindrical member.

Claim 17 (Canceled).